BIENNIAL

REPORT

of the

Alaska Territorial Highway Engineer

and

Superintendent Of Public Works

1949-1950

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TERRITORIAL BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Hon. Ernest Gruening, Governor of Alaska ..... Chairman
Frank A. Metcalf, Territorial Highway Engineer ..... Secretary
Henry Roden, Territorial Treasurer ..... Member

FOREWORD

On June 1, 1949 the Alaska Aeronautics Revolving Fund, created by the 1949 Legislature, went into effect. This fund, derived from a tax on aviation gas alone, is administered by the Director of Aeronautics and cannot exceed one third of the total Motor Fuel Tax. At that time all records pertaining to airfields and landing floats were turned over to the Department of Aviation in Anchorage and no further action was taken by this department with respect to that type of construction.

Each year this department enters into an agreement with the Alaska Road Commission, on a cooperative basis, whereby they maintain territorial roads with funds from the Motor Fuel Tax. This procedure tends toward a more economical way of handling construction and maintenance in outlying districts where private contracts would be almost prohibitive and provides a means of spreading these funds more equally in all Divisions.

ROAD BUILDING AGENCIES

The roads in the Territory are built and maintained by three separate road building agencies, as follows:

The Bureau of Public Roads builds roads only within the Forest Service Reserve Area, such as the Forest Highway System.

The Forest Service builds and maintains what is known as the Forest Development Roads and Trails in the First and Third Judicial Divisions only.

The Alaska Road Commission, acting under the Department of the Interior, operates outside of the National Forest Reserves entirely and is responsible for the large network of highways in the Interior.

GENERAL

Prior to the winter of 1948 and 1949 the Thompson Pass on the Richardson Highway out of Valdez had been closed to traffic because of deep snows. Last winter Alaska Freight Lines, operating large trailer trucks into Fairbanks on Army contracts, applied to this office for assistance to keep this pass open. Inasmuch as they were spending from fifty to sixty thousand dollars a month for gasoline the Territorial Board of Road Commissioners agreed to grant this request and allocated $20,000.00 for this purpose.

TERRITORY OF ALASKA

Office of

HIGHWAY ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

January 20, 1951

Honorable Ernest Gruening
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I have the honor of transmitting to you, and for the information of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska in Twentieth Regular Session assembled, the Report of the Territorial Highway Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works, for the period January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK A. METCALF

Territorial Highway Engineer

Superintendent of Public Works

However, this winter of 1950-51 the Army and the Alaska Road Commission are keeping the pass open for through traffic with no assistance from the Territory.

It was hoped that through the cooperation of the Canadian Government the Haines Highway might be kept open the year round, but world conditions as they are and the lack of proper equipment have again caused this road to be closed from the International Boundary north. The Alaska Highway however is kept free of snow for its entire length from Fairbanks to the United States and is open to the traveling public the year round.

The Sterling Highway from its junction with the Seward-Hope road at Mile 58 to Homer at Kachemak Bay was officially opened to the public on September 5, 1950 with impressive ceremonies and the Seward-Anchorage Highway around Turnagain Arm will be completed during the 1951 season.

Surveys have been made of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad grade for its conversion to a standard highway.

During the last two years 331 miles of Alaska Highways have been improved with a blacktop hard surfacing, 46 miles of which were in the First Division.

Along the Alaska Highway

Glacier Highway—near Juneau

HIGHWAY PATROL BUILDINGS

In addition to the buildings acquired by the Territory for the housing of the Highway Patrol as covered by my last report, a two story house in Valdez was purchased for the sum of $1,500.00. The cost of repairing, refurnishing and installation of a heating plant, etc. brought the investment up to a little over $3,000.00. The final payment on the $4,000.00 Glennallen property was made last summer and the title now rests with the Territory. Garage facilities for storage of patrol cars at Glennallen and Anchorage have been constructed.

THE HIGHWAY PATROL

Continual demand has been made upon this office for a material increase in the personnel of the Alaska Highway Patrol. The foremost of these demands came from the National Defense Council. For that reason I have had to increase the patrol from a complement of fifteen men as of my last report to the present number of twenty-eight. The force now comprises three Lieutenants, six Sergeants and nineteen Patrolmen.

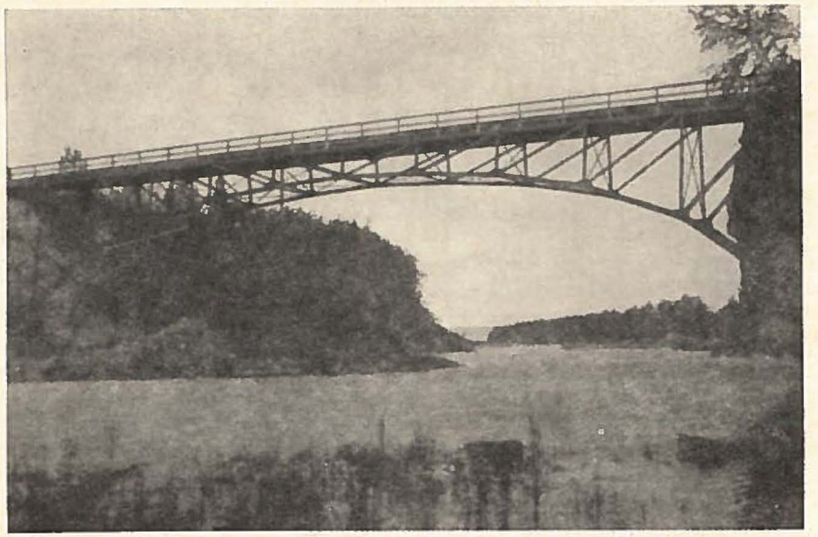
These men are stationed as follows: Seven each at Anchorage and Fairbanks; two each at Ketchikan, Juneau, Seward, Palmer and Tok Junction; and one each at Haines, Valdez, Glennallen and Gakona. It was also necessary to put on an office clerk at both Anchorage and Fairbanks. The salaries range from $380.00 to $475.00 per month for the patrolmen, $500.00 for Sergeants and $550.00 for Lieutenants.

For more efficient operation of the Patrol it was deemed advisable to install radio telephones in all cars operating on the open highways. Five central stations have already been installed, namely Ketchikan, Anchorage, Glennallen, Tok Junction and Fairbanks; and seventeen cars are now equipped with two-way radio telephones. While this system is still in an experimental stage the service it has already rendered has more than compensated for the additional expenditure.

A Ford panel truck was purchased and converted into an ambulance. This vehicle is equipped with a radio telephone and is stationed at Glennallen for immediate call at all hours.

In conclusion, I show herewith a table giving the amount of gas tax levied by each state in the Union. You will note that with the exception of the State of Missouri, whose tax is the same as the Territory of Alaska, all the States have a higher tax on motor fuel, the average being five (5) cents. As the need for more roads and harbor facilities within the Territory is rapidly increasing I would recommend an increase in the motor fuel tax more commensurate with the other states and to more nearly meet the rising demands for road construction and harbor facilities in the Territory.

Wreck on highway near Fairbanks



Eklutna River Bridge—Anchorage-Matanuska Road

RE: Gasoline Tax in the United States and Territories

The following information is compiled from Motor Vehicle Acts, 1950, edited by the Automobile Club of Southern California:

Alabama	6c	Louisiana	9c	Ohio	4c
Arizona	5c	Maryland	5c	Oklahoma	5½c
Arkansas	6½c	Maine	6c	Oregon	5c
California	4½c	Massachusetts	3c	Pennsylvania	4c
Colorado	6c	Michigan	3c	Rhode Island	4c
Connecticut	4c	Minnesota	4c	South Carolina	7c
Delaware	4c	Mississippi	7c	South Dakota	4c
Dist. of Col.	4c	Missouri	2c	Tennessee	7c
Florida	7c	Montana	5c	Texas	4c
Georgia	6c	Nebraska	5c	Utah	4c
Hawaii	6c	Nevada	4c	Vermont	4½c
Idaho	6c	New Hampshire	5c	Virginia	6c
Illinois	3c	New Jersey	3c	Washington	5c
Indiana	4c	New Mexico	5c	West Virginia	5c
Iowa	4½c	New York	4c	Wisconsin	4c
Kansas	4c	North Carolina	6c	Wyoming	4c
Kentucky	7c	North Dakota	4c		
Maximum	9c	Minimum	2c	Average	5c

Gasoline Tax in the Provinces of Canada (per Imperial gallon)

Alberta	9c	New Brunswick	13c	Prince Edward Is.	13c
British Columbia	10c	Nova Scotia	13c	Quebec	11c
Manitoba	9c	Ontario	11c	Saskatchewan	10c
Maximum	13c	Minimum	9c	Average	11c

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Received through the Motor Fuel Tax from January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950, including Drivers' Licenses and recoveries	$1,930,065.67
Plus Balance of December 31, 1948	194,940.17
	$2,125,005.84
Expended to December 31, 1950	1,873,183.69
Balance December 31, 1950	$ 251,822.15
Due Alaska Road Commission on cooperative agreement	231,320.00
	$ 20,502.15

The above funds are more than covered by allocations but sufficient funds will have been received to meet the payments by the time they become due, as the last quarterly returns for 1950 have not yet been received.

FOREST SERVICE FUNDS BY DIVISIONS

	1st. Div.	3rd Div.	Total
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1949	$75,502.87	$2,517.93	
Collected January 1, 1949 to Dec. 31, 1950	8,289.55	3,698.98	
	$83,792.42	6,216.91	
Disbursed	3,086.35	1,868.87	
Balance December 31, 1950	$80,706.07	$4,348.04	$85,054.11

Winter scene at Tok Junction

MIGRATORY BIRD ACT

Balance as of December 31, 1949	$ 960.60
Receipts	342.25
Balance December 31, 1950	$1,302.85

CONTINGENT FUND

Appropriated	$5,000.00
Expended	3,735.79
Balance December 31, 1950	$1,264.21

TELEPHONE LINES AND SHELTER CABINS

Appropriated	$5,000.00
Expended	776.23
Balance December 31, 1950	$4,223.77

RECEIPTS FROM MOTOR FUEL TAX

January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1949

	1st. Div.	2nd Div.	3rd Div.	4th Div.	Totals
Cars	$ 59,987.02	$ 16,015.34	$231,399.26	$104,628.20	$412,029.82
50.8%	14.5%	3.9%	56.2%	25.4%	
Aviation	$ 65,416.90	$ 3,746.77	$ 96,227.48	$ 36,711.45	$202,102.60
24.9%	32.4%	1.8%	47.6%	18.2%	
Boats	$123,319.43	$ 10,811.21	$ 61,655.41	$ 1,717.55	$197,503.60
24.3%	62.5%	5.5%	31.0%	1.0%	
Totals	$248,723.35	$ 30,573.32	$389,282.15	$143,057.20	$811,636.02
	30.6%	3.8%	48.0%	17.6%	

January 1, 1950 to December 31, 1950

	1st. Div.	2nd Div.	3rd Div.	4th Div.	Totals
Cars	$ 66,337.78	$ 20,726.35	$286,678.07	$ 97,804.26	$471,546.46
51.8%	14.1%	4.4%	60.8%	20.7%	
Aviation	$ 48,731.82	$ 20,512.01	$127,627.42	$ 62,419.57	$259,290.82
28.5%	18.8%	7.9%	49.2%	24.1%	
Boats	$120,227.16	$ 1,441.04	$ 54,536.80	$ 3,027.46	$179,232.46
19.7%	67.1%	0.8%	30.4%	1.7%	
Totals	$235,296.76	$ 42,679.40	$468,842.29	$163,251.29	$910,067.74
	25.9%	4.7%	51.5%	17.9%	

FIRST DIVISION

SUMMARY OF ALLOTMENTS BY PROJECTS

In Cooperation with the Alaska Road Commission
January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

Project—	A.R.C.	Territory	Total
Haines—Pleasant Camp	$ 20,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 35,000.00
Haines—Mud Bay	3,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
Haines—Chilkoot	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Skagway—Dyea	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00
Ship's Cove Trail		4,000.00	4,000.00
Haines—Porcupine Trail		500.00	500.00
Haines Road Repair		150.00	150.00
Skagway—Bulldozing Beach Airstrip		770.00	770.00
Craig—Klawock		7,380.00	7,380.00
Saxman		3,500.00	3,500.00
Wrangell Road to Garbage Dump		1,500.00	1,500.00
Baranof Board Walk		5,000.00	5,000.00
Angoon		575.00	575.00
Carlanna Lake Road		16,540.00	16,540.00
Chilkoot Lake Trail		1,120.00	1,120.00
Douglas Road, Pipeline and Causeway		11,050.00	11,050.00
Douglas Island Cannery Road		2,000.00	2,000.00

Early fall on Haines Cutoff

Haines Ramp Road		200.00	200.00
Haines—Klukwan Road		250.00	250.00
Haines—Comstock Road		3,075.00	3,075.00
Haines—Presbyterian Camp Road		650.00	650.00
Bell Island Road		600.00	600.00
Hoonah—Cannery Road		3,500.00	3,500.00
Hoonah—Garteena Road		1,000.00	1,000.00
Petersburg		570.00	570.00
Tee Harbor Ramp Road		4,450.00	4,450.00
Thane Road-Extension and Bridge		24,185.00	24,185.00
Yakutat Road		400.00	400.00
Spur Road to Fall Creek		500.00	500.00
Ketchikan—Saltchuck		2,240.00	2,240.00
Misc. Roads (Ketchikan, etc.)		3,150.00	3,150.00
Juneau Airport		15,400.00	15,400.00
Klawock Float		17,400.00	17,400.00
Pelican Gridiron		7,000.00	7,000.00
Craig Cove Mooring Float		5,100.00	5,100.00
Metlakatla Float		7,500.00	7,500.00
Myers Chuck		13,150.00	13,150.00
Skagway Boat Harbor		13,000.00	13,000.00
Ketchikan Boat Harbor		13,000.00	13,000.00
Cape Fanshaw Float		3,650.00	3,650.00
Windham Bay Float		600.00	600.00
Helm Bay Float		4,400.00	4,400.00
Juneau Gridiron		30,000.00	30,000.00
Kake Float		1,800.00	1,800.00
Point Baker Float Repair		150.00	150.00
Elfin Cove Floats		10,350.00	10,350.00
Hydaburg Float		600.00	600.00
Entrance Island Float		3,200.00	3,200.00
Wrangell Boat Harbor		15,700.00	15,700.00
Tenakee Float		100.00	100.00
Log Mooring Floats		10,250.00	10,250.00
Haines Ramp, Gangway, etc.		3,650.00	3,650.00
Tee Harbor Ramp		6,000.00	6,000.00
Petersburg Harbor		5,100.00	5,100.00
Angoon		300.00	300.00
Sitka Harbor and Gridiron		11,100.00	11,100.00
Port Alexander Float		11,050.00	11,050.00
TOTALS	$ 34,000.00	$336,405.00	$370,405.00

SECOND DIVISION

SUMMARY OF ALLOTMENTS BY PROJECTS

In Cooperation with the Alaska Road Commission
January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

Project—	A.R.C.	Territory	Total
Nome-Council (includes Ophir Creek Bridge)	$ 50,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 70,000.00
Nome—Locals	17,000.00	8,000.00	25,000.00
Flagging Trails	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00

Bunker Hill—Kougarok	25,000.00	15,000.00	40,000.00
Misc. Mine Roads and Trails	14,000.00	5,000.00	19,000.00
Candle Road		3,000.00	3,000.00
Charlie Creek Road		500.00	500.00
Coffee Creek Airfield		1,590.00	1,590.00
Nome Harbor		1,250.00	1,250.00
Salmon Lake Airfield		900.00	900.00
Savoonga Airfield		1,500.00	1,500.00
Northfork and Harris Road		1,800.00	1,800.00
Harris Creek Airstrip		450.00	450.00
Buck Creek to York		3,000.00	3,000.00
Miscellaneous		260.00	260.00
TOTALS	$107,000.00	$ 63,250.00	$170,250.00

THIRD DIVISION

SUMMARY OF ALLOTMENTS BY PROJECTS

In Cooperation with the Alaska Road Commission
January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

Project—	A.R.C.	Territory	Total
Mountain Roads	$ 16,000.00	$ 9,000.00	$ 25,000.00
Palmer Roads	43,000.00	17,000.00	60,000.00
Anchorage Loop and Branches	15,000.00	5,000.00	20,000.00
Spenard Roads	10,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00
Dillingham—Wood River	15,000.00	5,000.00	20,000.00
Bull River Road	6,000.00	4,000.00	10,000.00
Homer Roads	21,000.00	9,000.00	30,000.00
Iliamna Roads	4,000.00	2,000.00	6,000.00
McCarthy Roads	5,000.00	7,000.00	12,000.00
Mineral Creek Road	3,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Campbell Creek Bridge Repair		1,000.00	1,000.00
Palmer Airport		19,000.00	19,000.00
Chestochina Road, Slate Creek		5,000.00	5,000.00
Thompson Pass		10,000.00	10,000.00
Grubstake Creek Road		500.00	500.00
Seldovia Airport Road		4,500.00	4,500.00
Mountain View Road		1,600.00	1,600.00
Nelchina Road		500.00	500.00
Utah Avenue—Woodland Park Area		5,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous Roads		1,500.00	1,500.00
Homer Dock	20,400.00	48,850.00	69,250.00
Seward Boat Harbor		19,000.00	19,000.00
Cordova Dock Extension and Gridiron		15,500.00	15,500.00
Seldovia Boat Harbor		15,000.00	15,000.00
Valdez Boat Harbor		16,500.00	16,500.00
Miscellaneous Floats		5,500.00	5,500.00
TOTALS	$158,400.00	$232,950.00	$391,350.00

FOURTH DIVISION

SUMMARY OF ALLOTMENTS BY PROJECTS

In Cooperation with the Alaska Road Commission
January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

Project—	A.R.C.	Territory	Total
Branches to Richardson H'way	$	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00
Fairbanks—Ester and Branches	17,000.00	6,000.00	23,000.00
Branches to Fairbanks—Chatanika Road	3,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
Farmers—Burch Hill Road		2,000.00	2,000.00
Summit—Fairbanks Creek and Branches	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Circle Hot Springs and Branches	5,000.00	3,000.00	8,000.00
Miller House—Harrison Creek and Branches		1,000.00	1,000.00
Manley Hot Springs	18,300.00	16,700.00	35,000.00
Branches to Steese Highway	3,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
Ferry—Eva Creek	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
Rampart Road and Bridge	5,000.00	7,300.00	12,300.00
Flat Roads	8,000.00	4,000.00	12,000.00
Takotna Roads	21,000.00	14,000.00	35,000.00
Bethel Airfield and Road	7,000.00	3,000.00	10,000.00
Boundary—White River		300.00	300.00
Red Slough Bridge		4,300.00	4,300.00
Tibbs Creek Airfield		300.00	300.00
Salcha Winter Road		4,200.00	4,200.00
South Franklin Road		750.00	750.00
Nyac Road and Bridge		1,700.00	1,700.00
Stampede Clear Water Airfield		4,500.00	4,500.00
Timber Creek Airfield		4,000.00	4,000.00
Thompson Pass		10,000.00	10,000.00
Ruby Airfield		600.00	600.00
Platinum—Good News Bay		1,000.00	1,000.00
Livengood Airfield		450.00	450.00
Chicken Airfield and Road		14,000.00	14,000.00
Alatna Airfield		500.00	500.00
Jackson Airfield		1,500.00	1,500.00
Boundary Airstrip		250.00	250.00
Tetlin Airfield		5,400.00	5,400.00
Nenana Cemetery Road		500.00	500.00
Slater Street—Graehl Road		800.00	800.00
Bethel Territorial Guard Road		2,000.00	2,000.00
Fairbanks—E. M. Cox Cooperative		750.00	750.00
Utopia Airport Road		2,000.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous Roads		3,650.00	3,650.00
TOTALS	$ 91,300.00	$130,450.00	$221,750.00

SUMMARY OF ALLOTMENTS BY DIVISIONS

In Cooperation with the Alaska Road Commission
January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

	A.R.C.	Territory	Total
First Division	$ 34,000.00	$336,405.00	$ 370,405.00
Second Division	107,000.00	63,250.00	170,250.00
Third Division	158,400.00	232,950.00	391,350.00
Fourth Division	91,300.00	130,450.00	221,750.00
TOTALS	$390,700.00	$763,055.00	$1,153,755.00

Equipment carried in Patrol Cars

Winter road conditions on Alaska Highway

SUMMARY OF HIGHWAY PATROL EXPENSE

January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

	Salaries	Operating Costs	Radio Telephone	Total	Miles Traveled	Gasoline Consumed	Cost Per Mile	Miles Per Gallon
1949—								
First Division	$ 26,963.79	$17,856.91	$ 1,400.51	$ 46,221.21	82,638	6,090	.56	13½
Third Division	38,452.71	36,189.98	2,294.43	76,937.12	194,099	13,699	.40	14
Fourth Division	30,176.71	25,287.19		55,463.90	137,628	8,457	.40	16
TOTALS	$ 95,593.21	$79,334.08	$ 3,694.94	$178,622.23	414,365	28,246	.43	15
1950—								
First Division	$ 25,306.66	$11,459.97	$ 873.04	$ 37,639.67	80,259	5,263	.47	15
Third Division	59,509.09	49,664.15	6,507.88	115,681.12	244,805	18,110	.47	13½
Fourth Division	41,374.52	36,908.62	9,247.70	87,530.84	220,683	16,210	.40	13½
TOTALS	$126,190.27	98,032.74	$16,628.62	$240,851.63	545,747	39,583	.46	14

NOTE: Number of New Cars Purchased—22 (7 Fords, 2 Mercuries, 8 Plymouths, 2 Buicks, 2 Hudsons, 1 Studebaker (used))
Total Cost—$48,203.55
Average of $2,191.00 each
Six (6) Cars sold on bids, Total $8,202.66

HIGHWAY PATROL ACTIVITIES

January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1950

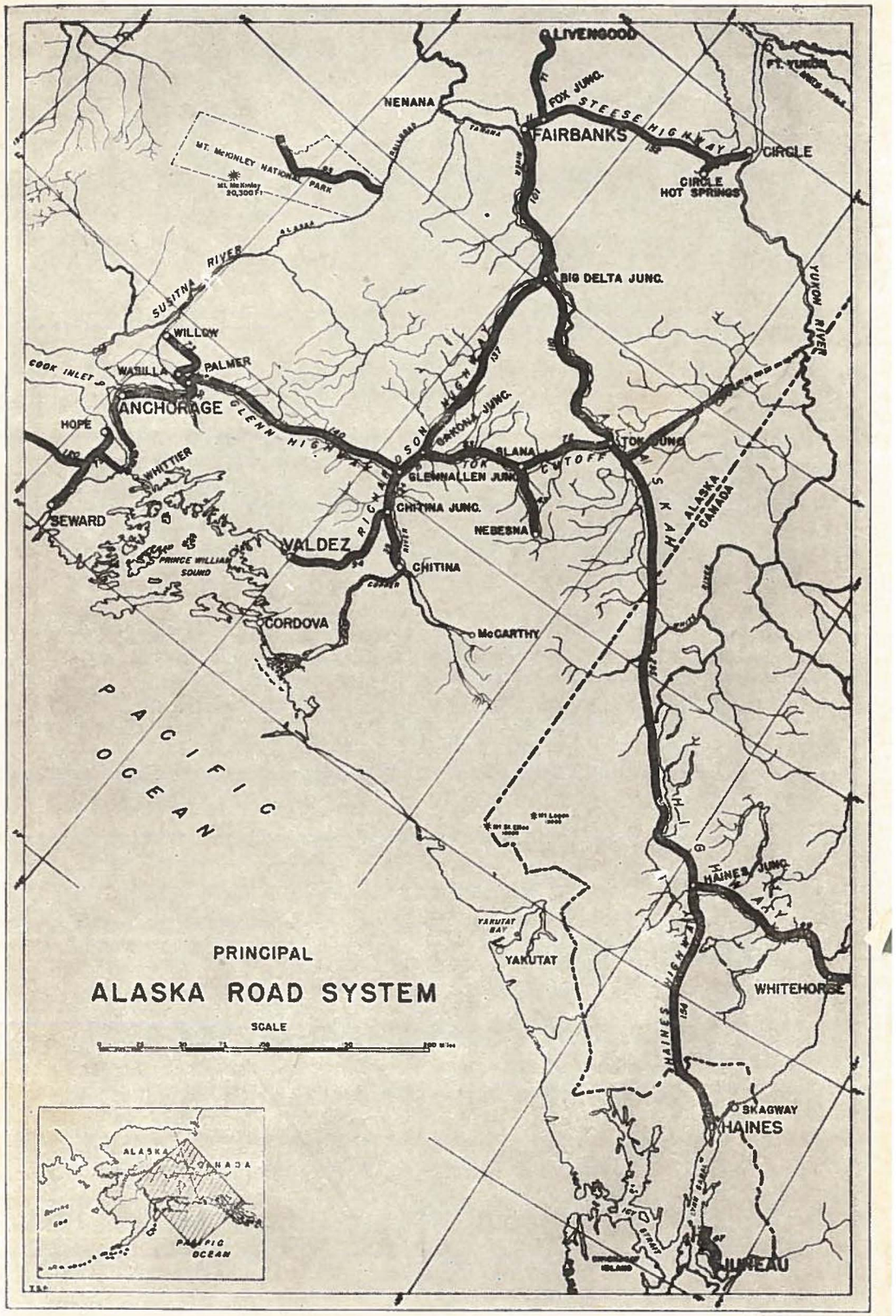
	1st Div.	3rd Div.	4th Div.
Traffic Accidents	92	750	451
Traffic Violations	115	599	775
Fines Imposed	$ 5,365.00	$32,510.00	$14,661.00

Total Fines Collected which revert to the U.S. Govt. $52,536.00

Estimated Value of Stolen Cars Returned to Owners through efforts of the Alaska Highway Patrol

First Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
$126,780.00	$302,575.00	$166,500.00

Total—$595,875.00

Record of Cars Entering and Leaving Alaska through Tok Junction

	Cars		Passengers	
	Entering	Leaving	Entering	Leaving
1947	387	466	717	1,168
1948	4,471	3,092	11,192	7,514
1949	6,417	4,716	15,528	12,165
1950	8,097	5,071	19,622	16,812